

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NEA-07 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 EA-06 SP-02 SCCT-01 L-01 DHA-02

AF-04 EB-03 EUR-08 SAB-01 ACDA-10 DODE-00 PM-03 PRS-01

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O P 071644Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4286 4287

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIROITY 1025 1026

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 9590

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND
OTHER OFFICIALS ON UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ISSUES

REF: CARACAS 9287(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS AND CHARLES FRANK (E)
REVIEWED WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS MAJOR UNGA
ISSUES, FORTHCOMING COLOMBO SUMMIT, PLUS CIEC AND NORTH-SOUTH
DIALOGUE ISSUES(SEPTEL. VENEZUELANS OFFERED STRONG SUPPORT
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FOR US VIEWS ON TERRORISM, KOREA, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FOREIGN

MINISTER ESCOVAR AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS PEREZ-GUERRERO BOTH PROMISED TO DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO MODERATE NON-ALIGNED STAND ON PANAMA AND PUERTO RICO TO AVOID POLEMICAL DEBATE AT UNGA ON THESE ISSUES. VENEZUELANS AGREED THAT ME AND AFRICAN ITEMS WILL BE HIGH IN PRIORITY ON UNGA AGENDA. THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT EXTREME ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS.

END SUMMARY

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS AND CHARLES FRANK(E), ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, AND EMBASSY POLOFF, HELD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS AUG 5-6 WITH GOV FONMIN ESCOVAR AND OTHER SENIOR FONMIN OFFICIALS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DR MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO. CONSULTATIONS REVIEWED PROSPECTS FOR COLOMBO NAC AND UNGA, PLUS NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC DIALOGUE(SEPTEL) ESCOVAR STRESSED CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVTS, AND DESIRE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION IN NY BETWEEN OUR TWO DELEGATIONS. TALKS IN GENERAL WERE STRAIGHT-FORWARD, VERY CORDIAL AND QUITE CONSTRUCTIVE. LEWIS REVIEWED US POSITIONS ON ALL IMPORTANT UNGA ISSUES, WITH PARTICULAR STRESS ON PUERTO RICO, PANAMA, KOREA, MIDDLE EAST, TERRORISM, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. VENEZUELANS, AS EXPECTED, EMPHASIZED PANAMA, PUERTO RICO, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TERRORISM.

3. GENERAL PROSPECTS FOR UNGA AND COLOMBO SUMMIT. ESCOVAR ECHOED EARLIER VIEWS REPORTED CARACAS 9287 THAT GOV IS CONCERNED ABOUT RADICALIZATION OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GOV IS ONLY AN OBSERVER GOV FEELS THAT RADICALS TEND TO CONTROL GROUP, AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, GOV HAS NO INTENTION OF BECOMING FULL NAC MEMBER. LEWIS NOTED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING GOV OBSERVER STATUS, GOV HAS INFLUENCE WITH LATIN AMERICA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP, AND HOPED THAT VENEZUELANS COULD BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO MODERATE MORE EXTREME POSITIONS. IN THIS REGARD, DISCUSSION TURNED TO RECENT EVENTS IN PERU. ESCOVAR SAID THAT GOV HAS IMPRESSION THAT PERU HAS DEFINITELY MODERATED ITS THIRD WORLD STANCE AND THAT GOV IS PLEASED THAT GOP VIEWS NOW APPEAR TO BE MOVING MORE IN LINE WITH VENEZUELAN ATTITUDES. POSSIBLY LIMA WILL PLAY A GREATER MODERATING ROLE THAN HERETOFORE IN NAC. OTHER RANKING GOV OFFICIALS SAID NAC WOULD CONCENTRATE

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ON POLITICAL ISSUES, AND THAT ECONOMIC ISSUES WOULD TEND TO BE COVERED AT PARIS CIEC. THIS WAS ASSESSMENT AS WELL OF MINISTER PEREZ-GUERRERO. RE UNGA PROSPECTS, GOV THOUGHT ASSEMBLY COULD BE RATHER BOISTEROUS WITH TERRORISM AND ME ISSUES AT THE FOREFRONT. WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT OUTCOME, ARABS ARE IN RATHER FOUL MOOD, PARTIALLY DUE TO LEBANESE DEBACLE PLUS ENTEBBE INCIDENT. IN ADDITION, CUBAN MISCHIEF ON PUERTO RICO ITEM AND PANAMA'S INTENTION TO RAISE CANAL QUESTION IN

GA DEBATE COULD ALSO KEEP ASSEMBLY POT CHURNING.

4. ISRAELI/ZIONISM/RACISM. ESCOVAR SAID THAT THIS ISSUE IS NATURALLY A DELICATE ONE FOR GOV BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSE TIES TO OPEC COUNTRIES, BUT GOV ALSO MAINTAINS CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAELIS AND INTENDS TO KEEP THEM IN GOOD REPAIR. THUS GOV WILL AVOID POLEMICS ON ME ISSUES, AND WILL NOT PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN ANY ME DEBATE. (IN PASSING, HE NOTED THAT PALESTINIANS 6-7 MONTHS AGO REQUESTED GOV PERMISSION TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN CARACAS WHICH GOV HAD DENIED, ALTHOUGH GOV IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM DOMESTIC LEFTISTS TO ACCOMMODATE PALESTINIANS.) OTHER FORMIN OFFICIALS SAID LEBANON SITUATION HAS FRUSTRATED ARABS TO POINT WHERE THEY MAY WISH TO STIR UP TROUBLED WATERS IN GA TO VENT THEIR SPLEEN. RESPONDING TO QUERY FROM LEWIS, ESCOVAR SAID THAT IF AN EXTREME ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTION COMES UP AT UNGA THIS YEAR, GOV AT THE LEAST SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT.

5. SOUTHERN AFRICA. VENEZUELAN TEND TO BELIEVE THAT RHODESIAN ISSUE WILL BE MORE IN LIMELIGHT THAN NAMIBIA/SOUTH AFRICA ITEM. AFRICANS, ACCORDING GOV VIEW, WILL TEND TO KEEP TWO ISSUES SEPARATE. GOV IS, OF COURSE, VERY INTERESTED IN CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE IN ANGOLA BUT HAS NO INFO FROM HAVANA AS TO CUBAN INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO ANY TIMETABLE FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL. FORMIN OFFICIAL WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT CUBANS DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN ANGOLA INDEFINITELY.

6. KOREA. ESCOVAR SAID GOV WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR POSITION AGAIN THIS YEAR. ANOTHER FORMIN OFFICIAL OPINED THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE CHANGE ON ROK ISSUE, ALTHOUGH COLOMBO NAC COULD ADD A NEW WRINKLE TO THIS ISSE IF RADICALS SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN POSITION ACROSS THE BOARD.
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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 IO-03 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SCCT-01

EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01 SP-02 DHA-02 SAB-01 AF-04

NEA-07 ACDA-10 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 EB-03 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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7. TERRORISM. ESCOVAR WAS NOT AWARE OF GERMAN INITIATIVE, BUT STRESSED VENEZUELAN INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE AND THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS PERSONAL STAKE IN WORKING ON SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. LOWER LEVEL FORMIN OFFICIAL WAS GENERALLY INFORMED ABOUT GERMAN INITIATIVE, OWEVER, AND SAID VENEZUELAN EMBASSY IN BONN IS IN CONTACT WITH THE GERMANS ON THIS. ESCOVAR ALSO SAID THAT USG SHOULD CONSULT WITH THE SOVIETS SINCE HE UNDERSTANDS THEY ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING ON SOLUTION TO TERRORIST PROBLEM. BOTH OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VENEZUELA IS WORKING WITH COLOMBIA ON THIS ISSUE AS WELL AND BOTH ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLANNING TO PRESENT THEIR OWN RESOLUTION. LEWIS STRESSED US DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA(AND GERMANY) IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS. ESCOVAR SAID GOV HAS MADE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS TO BOTH CHILEAN AND CUBAN GOVTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS. AS A DEMOCARACY, VENEZUELA CARES DEEPLY ABOUT HIS ISSUE, WHICH IS ONE, ACCORDING TO ESCOVAR, THAT HE IS NOW DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT ON PERSONAL BASIS SINCE

HIS VISIT TO SANTIAGO FOR THE OAS CONFERENCE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT GOV IS CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE SOVIET UNION, BECAUSE "STALINISM IS STILL ALIVE THERE." HE ARGUED THAT UN HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY MUST BE STRENGTH-ENDED.

9. PANAMA ESCOBAR, AND OTHER FORMIN OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS PEREZ- GUERRERO, ALL AGREED THAT IF THERE IS A DEBATE ON APANAM AT UNGA, THEN RESULT COULD BE SERIOUS DAMAGE TO PROSPECTS FOR TREATY. ESCOBAR TOLD LEWIS AND AMBASSADOR THAT GOV WILL BE VERY MODERATE ON PANAMA ISSUE AND THE GOV STATEMENTS RE APANAMA WILL CERTAINLY NOT EXACERBATE SITUATION. (ESCOBAR PLANS ADDRESS GA ON SEP 27 OR 28 IN WHAT HE TERMED A "PRUDENT SPEECH") PEREZ GUERRERO SAID HE WOULD TRY TO EXERT SOME CALMING INFLUENCE AT COLOMBO. IN HIS PRESENTATION LEWIS UNDERSCORED NOT ONLY IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING POLEMICAL ATTACKS ON US AT UNGA, BUT ALSO DANGERS IN ANY RESOLUTION WHICH PURPORTED TO ENDORSE SPECIFICS OF PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING

OBJECTIVES. VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GOMEZ MANTELLINI TOLD AMBASSADOR AND LEWIS SEPARATELY THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ IS VERY CLOSE TO TORRIJOS AND REITERATED GOV DESIRE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE ON CANAL ISSUE. GOMEZ MANTELLINI SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR PEREZ TO COUNSEL MODERATION TO TORRIJOS BEFORE LATTER LEAVES FOR NAC, WHICH IN TURN WOULD SET BETTER ATMOSPHERE FOR TREATMENT OF CANAL ISSUE IN THE GA.

10. PUERTO RICO. VENEZUELAN WILL ALSO BE PRUDENT ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, AND CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, ESCOBAR DID NOT RAISE LOS ISSUE IN THIS REGARD. FORMIN OFFICIAL SAID THAT GOV REALIZES PUERTO RICO IS A US DOMESTIC ISSUE AND GOV WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF ANTI-US PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION. DANGEROUS POLITICAL LINK BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND PANAMA ISSUES WAS POINTED OUT BY LEWIS, AND READILY ACKNOWLEDGED BY VENEZUELAN.

11. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. VENEZUELAN BELIEVE THAT SECGEN WALDHEIM IS DOING GOOD JOB AND IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED THAT HE REMAIN IN HIS POST. GOV WAS DEFINITELY LUKEWARM AT BEST TO CANDIDACY OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, AND OFFICIALS NOTED THAT SHOULD WALDHEIM DECIDE TO STEP DOWN, THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE THAT AFRICANS WOULD PUSH FOR A CANDIDATE OF THEIR WON.

12. SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT VENEZUELA IS NOW THE ONLY LA CANDIDATE FOR THE SC POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY GUYANA. LEWIS SAID THAT AS SOON AS LA GROUP FORMALLY MAKES DECISION ON VENEZUELA, US WILL BE DELIGHTED TO SUPPORT VENEZUELA AND WOULD VERY MUCH

LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING GOV ON COUNCIL.

13. ACTION REQUEST FOR PANAMA. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
BY IMMEDIATE RETURN CABLE YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF TORRIJOS'
ETD FROM PANAMA FOR NAC SUMMIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 07 AUG 1976
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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